

FIVE STITCHES FOR FAULKNER

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Combined Services 2

ONLY 267 paying spectators watched Combined Services carry off the Westminster Hospital Cup at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening. Wycombe Wanderers, in action only 24 hours after their Senior Cup final defeat, gave a tired performance yet deserved perhaps to draw with their fit, less skilful, visitors.

Tragedy struck them in the first minute when Vince Faulkner had to be taken to nearby Wycombe Hospital to have five stitches in a cut on the bone over his right eye—a setback which jeopardised his chances of playing at Barking last night.

Keith Blunt, injured against the Combined College the previous Friday, was also in hospital — for an operation to straighten his broken nose — and stood on the third floor watching the match.

It couldn't have inspired him. Wanderers brought on Paul Fuschillo for Faulkner but went in 1-0 down at half time to a goal from Services' winger Hustable. Keith Searle had hit the crossbar and goalkeeper Hopley made several fine saves for the visitors, who often needed to contend with spells of prolonged Wycombe pressure.

MIX-UP

But, within two minutes of the new half, a mix-up among home defenders, who expected the referee to whistle for offside, left Ken Oram an open run for their second goal. And soon Oram headed onto the crossbar.

But with Kevin O'Brien performing well in Wycombe's goal, and Johnny Hutchinson providing some rare relief from the half pace proceedings, The Blues pulled a goal back in the 68th minute, when Hutchinson himself controlled the ball beautifully for a left footed shot, completely deceiving Services' keeper.

Geoff Anthony replaced Searle, and immediately "Hutch" went close to equalising. But the Services played out time for skipper Goucher to carry off the Cup at full time.

Wanderers' last appearance in the annual challenge match was in 1967-68 when they beat Slough Town at the Dolphin Stadium.